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Administration  
Facsimile 687-5856

Water Quality Planning  
Water Pollution Control  
Facsimile 687-4684

Mining Regulation & Reclamation  
Facsimile 684-5259

State of Nevada  
KENNY C. GUINN  
*Governor*



ALLEN BIAGGI, *Director*

Air Pollution Control  
Air Quality Planning  
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Waste Management  
Federal Facilities

Corrective Actions  
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138  
Carson City, Nevada 89706

June 6, 2005

Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a renewal of a Water Pollution Control Permit for the Cortez Gold Mine Project, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for renewal of Water Pollution Control Permit NEV0000023 is:

Cortez Joint Venture dba Cortez Gold Mines  
HC66 Box 1250  
Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821-1250

The facility is located on public and private land in Lander County, within Sections 12, 13, and 24, Township 27 North, Range 47 East, Sections 18, 19, and an unsurveyed portion, T 27 N, R 48 E, and Section 9, and 10, T 26 N, R 48 E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately 15 miles south of the town of Crescent Valley.

The project consists of an open pit mining and chemical beneficiation facility, designed to extract gold, with a maximum permitted production rate of 2,000,000 tons of ore per year. The facility is comprised of open pit mines, a carbon-in-leach cyanidation mill, a refractory ore roaster, conventional cyanide heap leach pads, carbon columns, tailings impoundments, waste rock storage facilities, ponds, monitoring wells, a groundwater remediation pumpback system, and ancillary support facilities. Facilities are required to be designed, constructed, operated and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event. It is estimated the facility will disturb approximately 1,600 acres of public and private land.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the renewal Water Pollution Control Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the renewal permit.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed Water Pollution Control Permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code, NAC Chapter 445A, must submit their written comments, objections, or requests no later than 5:00 PM on the 30th day following the date of publication of this notice to:

Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation  
333 West Nye Lane, Room 138  
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this Water Pollution Control Permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The draft Water Pollution Control Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Miles Shaw on (775) 687-9409, toll free in Nevada (800) 992-0900 ext. 4670, or visit our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov.bmrr/bmrr01.html>